



***Nurturing Faith...***  
*Every Day in Every Way*

January 26, 2020

Isaiah 9:1-4  
 Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
 Matthew 4:12-23



***Third Sunday after Epiphany***

Good morning, friends! Did you know that The fish is a symbol for Jesus and for the church? A very long time ago, followers of Jesus had to be quiet about their faith because they could be punished for following Christ. So, if a person would meet a stranger and wanted to know if they, too, were a believer, a Christian could casually draw a two line fish in a dusty road with their sandal. (demonstrate by drawing this symbol on a large piece of paper) If the person they were talking with was a Christian, that person could also draw a fish in the dust. If the person was not a Christian, the sign would not even be noticed. Why do you think this might be a good symbol for Christians? (allow for answers) It is a good symbol because the job of the church is to fish for people.

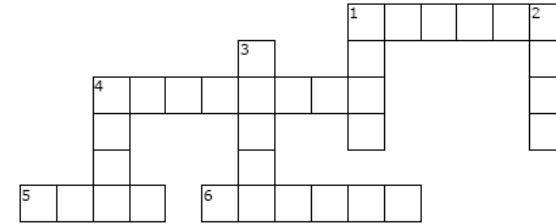
In today's Gospel lesson, Matthew tells us that Jesus was walking along the seashore when he saw two brothers named Peter and Andrew. Jesus knew that they made their living by fishing, so he called out to them, "Follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Do you know what they did? They laid down their fishing nets and followed Jesus.

Now, there was nothing "extraordinary" about Peter and Andrew, they were fishermen, not kings, or professors, or priests, but fishermen. Jesus saw something special in them and called them to be the first disciples. Their job was to simply follow Jesus and to tell others about all the wonderful things that Jesus had done.

Jesus wants us to fish for people too. That means that he wants us to follow him to tell others about what he has done for us, just like the first disciples did. Even if you think you are just an ordinary kid, Jesus sees something extraordinary in you! When we follow Jesus, we have an extraordinary story to tell and being a Christian is certainly something special because of the love of Christ that we carry in our heart.

Loving God, thank you for your love sent to us in your Son. Let that love shine so brightly in our hearts that we can't help but tell others about Jesus. Amen.

***Crossword Puzzle***



**ACROSS**

1. To move along behind someone
4. Two or more males who have the same parents
5. Open fabric made of threads or cords used to catch fish. (Plural)
6. Men, women, and children; human beings

**DOWN**

1. An animal without legs that lives in water
2. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other
3. The land along the edge of the sea, lake, or wide river
4. A small vehicle for traveling on water

BOAT	PEOPLE	FISH	NETS
SHORE	WALK	FOLLOW	BROTHERS

**Activity:** Using construction paper, cut out several fish. Write the names of those who you would like to tell about Jesus. Put your fish on your refrigerator and as a family, pray for those who do not yet know God's love.

**Discussion Question:** What's the best thing about being a Christian? Is it easy or hard to share your faith? Do you have to use words, or can you just show someone?

**Family Table Prayer for January:**

God, you make all things new  
 And for this, we thank you.  
 For the blessings of this day,  
 And for loving us in every way. Amen.

**January Memory Verse:** Revelation 21:5 Then the one sitting on the throne said: I am making everything new. Write down what I have said. My words are true.



### **Jesus Calls Four of His Disciples**

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